

Message Text

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ACTION SPM-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AID-20 SWF-02 AGR-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 DRC-01 /157 W

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R 232108Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3947

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AID/W FOR PHA/POP/LA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, SPOP

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR LOCAL FOOD AND POPULATION CRISIS
COMMITTEES

REF: STATE 107507

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT CONDITIONS FOR THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND POPULATION ARE EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD IN VENEZUELA IN VIEW OF THE DUAL EMPHASIS WHICH THE NEW ACCION DEMOCRATICA ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ IS PLACING ON FAMILY PLANNING AND ON INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.
2. DR. PABLO LIENDO COLL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE VENEZUELAN FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION (AVPF) IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN OBTAINING ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE "DECLARATION ON FOOD AND POPULATION", EVEN SEEKING ENDORSEMENTS FROM THE RANKING CHURCH HIERARCHY IN VENEZUELA.
3. DR. LIENDO COLL HAS A PRIVILEGED STATUS WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ

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IN REGARD TO FAMILY PLANNING MATTERS. HE IS DEEPLY COMMITTED

TO FURTHERING FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS AND APPRECIATIVE OF PAST DONOR AGENCY SUPPORT, BUT SOMETIMES RESENTFUL OF WHAT HE REGARDS AS "MANIPULATION" BY OUTSIDE AGENCIES. EMBASSY BELIEVES, AS A TACTICAL MATTER, THAT THERE WOULD BE A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING LIENDO COLL TO IDENTIFY WITH AND TO PUSH THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND POPULATION IF THE ORIGINAL LIST OF CANDIDATES WERE SOLICITED DIRECTLY FROM HIM BY THE POPULATION CRISIS COMMITTEE. EVEN THOUGH THE EMBASSY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH LIENDO COLL IS QUITE GOOD, AND THE POSSIBLE COMPOSITION OF A LOCAL COMMITTEE COULD BE DISCUSSED PRIVATELY WITH HIM, IT IS BELIEVED THAT EVEN SUCH A SEMI-OFFICIAL APPROACH, ALBEIT INFORMAL, WOULD TEND TO UNDERMINE HIS OWN SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL FOOD AND POPULATION COMMITTEE.

4. PERSONAL COMMENT FROM AMBASSADOR: ON MAY 18, I HAD A PRIVATE CONVERSATION, BY COINCIDENCE, WITH RICARDO BALL, WHO PROBABLY IN THE POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL SENSE IS MORE IMPORTANT TO THIS MOVEMENT IN VENEZUELA THAN DR. LIENDO COLL. BALL THANKED ME EFFUSIVELY FOR THE INITIATIVE OF THIS EMBASSY IN KICKING OFF THEIR SUCCESSFUL MOVEMENT WHEN I GAVE A DINNER 3-1/2 YEARS AGO FOR GENERAL DRAPER (TO WHOM MY WARM PERSONAL REGARDS). HE SAID THAT WITHOUT THIS SUPPORT, THEIR MOVEMENT COULD NOT HAVE ACHIEVED ITS PRESENT SIGNIFICANCE AND SUCCESS. HE SAID HE HAD LAST WEEK BEEN AUDIENCE OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ WHO SUPPORTS THE MOVEMENT; AND ADDED THAT THIS WEEK THE PRESIDENT WOULD GIVE A SPECIAL LUNCHEON FOR THE FAMILY PLANNING MOVEMENT PEOPLE IN VENEZUELA. BALL ADDED THAT WITH THE SUCCESS NOW ACHIEVED, HIS ASSOCIATED GROUPS WOULD BE ABLE TO DIVEST THEMSELVES AS OF THE END OF THIS YEAR OF FURTHER OUTSIDE SUPPORT AND COULD HENCEFORTH RELY NOT ONLY UPON PRIVATE SUBSCRIPTIONS BUT ON APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS.

MCCLINTOCK

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